DC
TWO FABULOUS FEATURES IN ONE MAG!
GRAVEDIGGER AND Dateline: FRONTLINE
40¢
ALL NEW!
NO. 23
DEC.
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
MEN OF WAR
TM
ULYSSES HAZARD, 1917-1942
YOU COME TO ROB A GRAVE, SCHWEIN --AND NOW IT SHALL BE YOUR GRAVE!
JOE KUBERT
12
0 70989 32453 0

HANDLER OF THE DEAD: A RATHER IGNOBLE POSITION FOR A MAN SOON TO BECOME LEGEND. BUT THEN, NO ONE EVER SAID THAT WAR IS LONG ON LOGIC. JUST ASK ULYSSES HAZARD, A MAN WHO HAD TO FIGHT NOT ONLY THE ENEMY--BUT HIS OWN COUNTRY--TO EARN THE...

CODE NAME: Gravedigger

THERE ARE NO SOUNDS OF GUNFIRE OR THE AGONY OF DEATH DURING THIS BATTLE SCENE...
THERE IS NO SOUND BUT A SOFT WHIRRING AND A CLACKING THAT ACCOMPANIES A WAVERING LIGHT...

ACTION? IT'S NOT YET BEGUN--BUT IT WILL LEAD TO THE HARROWING...

MISSION: SIX FEET UNDER!

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Paul Levitz, Editor
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I'M SHOWING YOU THESE CAPTURED FILMS SO YOU WILL KNOW THE FACE OF THAT AMERICAN GENERAL...
G2 HAS INFORMED US THAT THE GERMANS HAVE REQUESTED A BODY EXCHANGE UNDER A WHITE FLAG!
"BODY EXCHANGE"?
HANDS GRIPPING THE HANDLES OF THE BULKY WHEELCHAIR, GRAVEDIGGER GUIDES HIS COMMANDING OFFICER THROUGH THE WAR ROOM COMPLEX BENEATH THE WAR-TORN LONDON...
YES... THEY WANT ONE OF THEIR DEAD OFFICERS' BODIES IN EXCHANGE FOR THE GENERAL YOU SAW KILLED IN THAT FILM...
PROJECTION ROOM
SHELTER
NOW WHY DO YOU SUPPOSE THEY'RE SO ALL FIRED ANXIOUS TO HAVE A DEAD GENERAL?
THAT, CAPTAIN, IS EXACTLY THE QUESTION TO WHICH YOU ARE TO FIND THE ANSWER!
AUTOPSY ROOM
WE'VE COMPLETED EXHAUSTING EXAMINATIONS OF HIS UNIFORM -- NOTHING AT ALL IS HIDDEN ON HIS BODY!
IF IT ALL CHECKS OUT, WHY DO YOU NEED ME?
WE KNOW SOMETHING ISN'T CRICKET, CAPTAIN -- AND WE'RE LEAVING IT IN YOUR HANDS TO LEARN EXACTLY WHAT!
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO LEARN WHAT YOUR BIG BRAIN BOYS COULDN'T?
SIMPLE, CAPTAIN -- YOU'RE GOING ALONG WITH THE LATE NAZI OFFICER --
2

TWELVE HOURS LATER, ABOARD A HASTILY SCHEDULED TRANSPORT...
YOU KNOW YOUR PRESENCE ON THIS MISSION VIOLATES THE AGREEMENT WE HAVE WITH THE GERMANS, CAPTAIN...
I KNOW THAT, SIR... BUT JUST LIKE YOU -- I'M FOLLOWING ORDERS!
YOU THREE JUST MAKE NICE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE NAZIS, SIR... AND I'LL FOLD MYSELF IN HALF AND TRY TO BE COMFORTABLE -- AND QUIET!
I THINK IT WILL WORK, GENTLEMEN -- THERE'S NO SIGN OF HIM NOW!
RIGHT! WE'RE READY TO RENDEZVOUS AT THE PREARRANGED SITE!
OUI!
IT'S A LONE TENT -- IN THE MIDDLE OF NO-MAN'S-LAND!
3

GIANT WHEELS LOSE RUBBER AS THEY SCRAPE THE DIRT OF NO-MAN'S-LAND-- SOMEWHERE ON THE WESTERN FRONT...
ONLY THE HEAVY CLANK OF THE OPENING METAL DOOR SOUNDS ABOVE THE DYING ENGINE...
THERE'S TO BE NO FACE-TO-FACE CONFRONTATION! WE'RE TO LEAVE THE BODY THERE AND RETURN TO THE TRANSPORT...
...THE NAZIS WILL PICK HIM UP AND RETURN WITH THE AMERICAN GENERAL'S BODY...
AND AFTER THEY HAVE PLACED HIS COFFIN HERE AND DEPARTED, WE'LL RETURN AND RETRIEVE IT!
BUT AS THE ALLIED TEAM DEPARTS...
NOK NOK NOK
THAT'S THE SIGNAL...
I'VE PROBABLY ONLY SECONDS TO FIND A PLACE TO HIDE -- BUT WHERE?
MADE IT--NOW, IF I CAN ONLY SEE WHAT'S SO IMPORTANT ABOUT THIS GERMAN'S DEAD BODY!

CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING.

HURRY! WE HAVE TO REMOVE HIM AND RETURN WITH THE AMERICAN'S BODY!
REMOVING THE BODY? WHY?
TAKING HIM AWAY... IT LOOKS AS IF I'LL HAVE TO TAG ALONG TO SEE THIS MISSION . THROUGH!
I JUST HOPE WE DON'T HAVE A LONG RIDE—THE TRANSPORT I CAME IN IS MY ONLY WAY HOME!
LESS THAN A MILE AWAY FROM THE TENT, WHEN THE TRUCK PULLS TO A STOP...
JUMPED OUT JUST IN TIME!
WHAT THE DEVIL? THEY'RE DUMPING HIM IN AN UNMARKED GRAVE?
WELL, IF I EXCUSE MYSELF THE PUN... I'M GETTING TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS!
THE GRIM TASK DONE, THE TRUCK PULLS AWAY--AS ULYSSES HAZARD SECURES THE TOOL OF HIS GIVEN TRADE!
5

AT THE WAR'S BEGINNING, HE WAS ASSIGNED A CERTAIN DESIGNATION-- HANDLER OF THE DEAD--A GRAVEDIGGER!
NOW, AFTER MONTHS OF STRUGGLE--AND MISSIONS THAT WOULD TAX THE ABILITIES OF THE STRONGEST--HE HAS RETURNED TO THAT TASK -- IN REVERSE!

WHY DID THE NAZIS GO TO ALL THE TROUBLE OF SETTING UP A WHITE FLAG TRUCE TO GET A BODY RETURNED TO DUMP IT?
WHY?

THE SHOVEL RISES AND FALLS... AGAIN AND AGAIN... THE GRAVEDIGGER DEEP IN THOUGHT, HE FAILS TO HEAR THE CRUNCH OF SOIL BEHIND HIM!

KEEP DIGGING, AMERICAN!
YOU MUST BE A SPY-- TRYING TO LEARN WHO IS BURIED HERE-- AND WHY! IT IS SAD THAT ALL YOU DIG HERE IS YOUR OWN GRAVE!
BLAST!

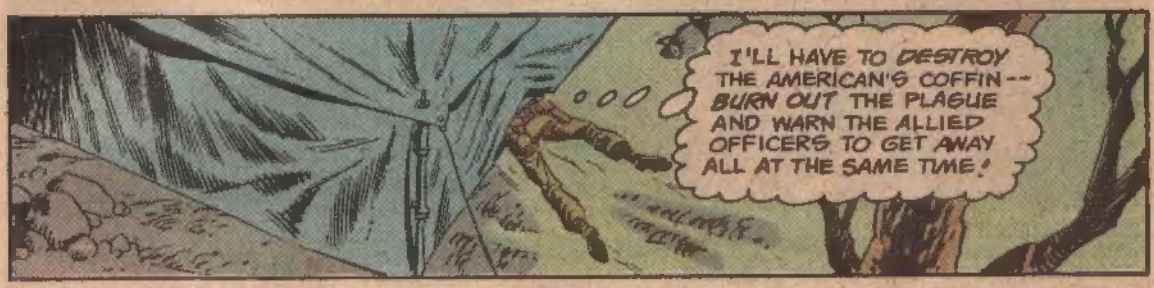
IF I'M KILLED, THEY'LL REPORT THAT WE'VE BROKEN THE WHITE FLAG TRUCE-- THE NEGOTIATING TEAM'S LIVES WON'T BE WORTH A PLUGGED NICKEL!

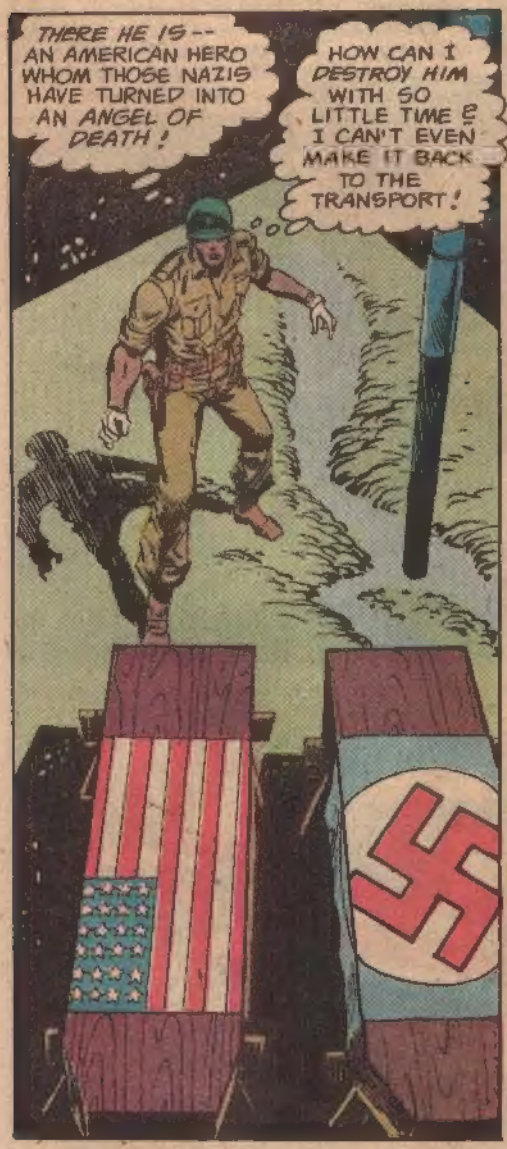
BUT AS HE DIGS...
HEY... THEIR SHADOWS SHOW ME RIGHT WHERE THEY'RE STANDING!
WITH A FAST PULL OF HIS WRISTS...
VAS!?
WAIT A SEC-- I JUST REALIZED WHAT THE GERMANS ARE PLANNING! IT'S THE ONLY POSSI-BLE ANSWER!
BLAM
BLAM
THE GRAVE NOW HOLDS THREE...AND THE GRAVEDIGGER RACES AWAY...
THE GERMANS DIDN'T CARE ABOUT GETTING THEIR MAN BACK, BUT THEY'RE ANXIOUS TO RETURN OURS! WHY?
MAYBE I CAN HEAR SOMETHING IF I CAN CREEP CLOSE ENOUGH TO THEIR HQ TENT!

SHHHHHHH!
UURK!
ALL IS IN READINESS?
YES...THE AMERICAN'S BODY IS ALREADY IN THE COFFIN IN THE TENT!
WE'VE INFECTED THE BODY WITH THE GERM--AS SOON AS IT IS RETURNED TO THE ALLIES--THE PLAGUE WILL SPREAD!
PLAGUE! SO THAT'S IT! THE BODY THEY'RE RETURNING IS INFECTED!
INCH BY INCH, THE GUARD'S FINGERS HAVE STRETCHED TOWARD THE TRIGGER OF HIS RIFLE UNTIL...
YOU WILL TAKE SOME MEN BACK TO THE NEUTRAL TENT--NAIL THE COFFIN LID CLOSED TO INSURE THEY WILL NOT OPEN--
BLAM
DAMN! I WASN'T HOLDING THIS CLOWN TIGHT ENOUGH!
I HAVE TO RUN FOR IT--GET BACK SOMEHOW AND WARN THEM NOT TO TOUCH THAT BODY!
VAS IS LOS!?
I'LL HAVE TO GO BY A ROUNDABOUT ROUTE--CAN'T LET THEM BE CERTAIN WHO I AM!
I CAN'T JEOPARDIZE THE TRANSFER TEAM'S SAFETY!
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
VIP
VIP

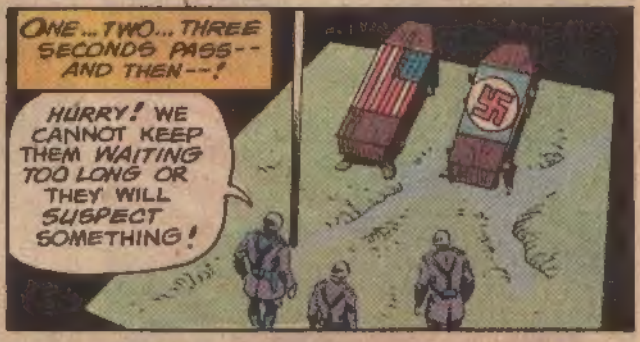
CONTINUED ON 5TH PAGE FOLLOWING

LESS THAN FIFTEEN MINUTES LATER, AS GRAVEDIGGER CRAWLS CLOSE TO HIS GOAL...
LOOKS LIKE I MADE IT BACK BEFORE THE KRAUTS--THEY MUST HAVE DETOURED TO LOOK FOR ME!

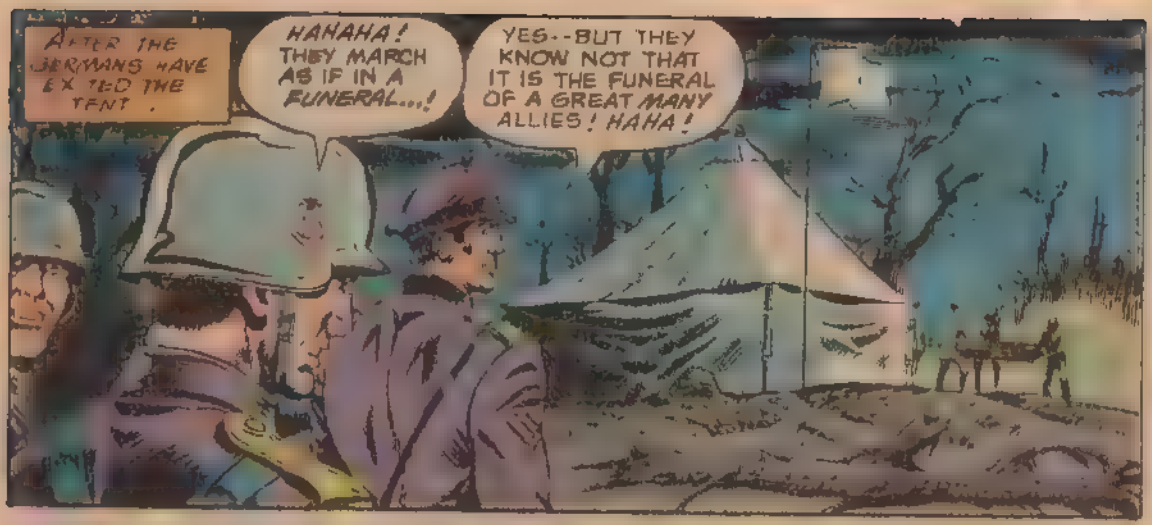

I'LL HAVE TO DESTROY THE AMERICAN'S COFFIN--BURN OUT THE PLAGUE AND WARN THE ALLIED OFFICERS TO GET AWAY ALL AT THE SAME TIME!


THERE HE IS--AN AMERICAN HERO WHOM THOSE NAZIS HAVE TURNED INTO AN ANGEL OF DEATH!
HOW CAN I DESTROY HIM WITH SO LITTLE TIME & I CAN'T EVEN MAKE IT BACK TO THE TRANSPORT!

THEN...
HURRY, WE MUST SECURE THE COFFIN--WE CANNOT ALLOW THE ALLIES TO OPEN IT BEFORE RETURNING TO THEIR BASE.
NO TIME AND NO PLACE TO HIDE!


ONE...TWO...THREE SECONDS PASS--AND THEN--!
HURRY! WE CANNOT KEEP THEM WAITING TOO LONG OR THEY WILL SUSPECT SOMETHING!

WITH NO WORDS SPOKEN, THE SOLDIERS POUND THE LID OF THE COFFIN CLOSED.. WITH NO IDEA THAT SECONDS AGO THERE WAS AN AMERICAN SPY-COMMANDO IN THE TENT! BUT WHERE IS HE NOW?
BANG BANG BANG BANG BANG


AFTER THE JERMANS HAVE EX TED THE TENT .
HAHAHA! THEY MARCH AS IF IN A FUNERAL...!
YES--BUT THEY KNOW NOT THAT IT IS THE FUNERAL OF A GREAT MANY ALLIES! HAHA!

I HATE TO LEAVE HAZARD BEHIND... BUT HE NEVER MADE IT BACK TO THE TRANSPORT!
YOU KNOW OUR ORDERS --WE'RE TO CONTINUE AS IF HE WERE NEVER HERE!

SHORTLY, THE AIR IS CUT BY THE GIANT PROPS, AND THE IRON BIRD LEAVES THE EARTH BEHIND...

LESS THAN AN HOUR LATER IT CROSSES THE GREAT CHANNEL, AND IT OFFICIALLY ENTERS FRIENDLY SKIES . ENDING THE TEMPORARY TRUCE .

PRESENTLY, BACK IN LONDON'S WAR ROOM...
SO YOU LOST CAPTAIN HAZARD? WELL, HE KNOWS THE UNDERGROUND SIGNALS.
IN A WEEK OR SO, WE SHOULD GET BACK ANY INFORMATION HE SECURED! BUT IS THAT IN TIME--
NOK NOK NOK NOK

THERE'S SOMEONE ALIVE IN THERE -- AND I'LL WAGER A MONTH'S PAY AS TO WHO IT IS!
GRAVEDIGGER! BUT HOW-- WHERE IS THE AMERICAN GENERAL'S BODY?
WELL, MAJOR -- I FIGURE THE OLD BOY'S PLAGUE-INFESTED BODY IS STILL BACK IN THE TENT IN NO-MAN'S LAND!
PLAGUE!?
AFTER EXPLANATIONS OF THE PLOT ARE MADE...
VERY GOOD CAPTAIN! YOU'VE SUCCEEDED BEYOND OUR WILDEST HOPES!
WAIT! I DON'T UNDERSTAND! HOW'D YOU PULL THE SWITCH?
YOU COULDN'T HAVE SWITCHED THE BODIES YOU WOULD HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO THE PLAGUE! HOW DID YOU REMOVE THE AMERICAN AND TAKE HIS PLACE?
EXCUSE THE PUN, BUT I DIDN'T MOVE ANY "BODY", SIR...
ALL I DID WAS SWITCH THE FLAGS -- COVERING THE AMERICAN'S COFFIN WITH THE NAZI FLAG AND PULLING OLD GLORY OVER THE GERMAN'S COFFIN AS I SPILLED IN. I WOULD HAVE TOLD YOU SOONER, BUT THOSE RATS NAILED ME IN!
AND NOW, UNLESS THEY HAVE SOME MEDICINE TO PROTECT THEM FROM THE PLAGUE, THE DISEASE IS SPREADING THROUGH THEIR OWN RANKS!
END

NEXT: THE PRESIDENTIAL PERIL! ON SALE

BATTLE LINES

c/o DC COMICS INC
75 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA
NEW YORK NY 10019

Dear Paul,

Just finished *MEN OF WAR* #17, and trying not to sound too sarcastic, how long before our hero dons a cape and takes to the air? Captain Hazard's newly acquired scar is going a little too far.

I feel that if this magazine was devoted to Dateline:Frontline and the legendary Enemy Ace, it would be a step in the right direction. Gravedigger just seems to represent a black Unknown Soldier.

Why not show some real black heroes, such as the all black 232nd fighter group, known as the Red Tails? These men also had to put up with prejudice, as Captain Hazard did.

Moreover, why not change *MOW* to the format of the short-lived *ARMY AT WAR* magazine. That, to me, was an ideal war magazine.

Whaling City Reader
New Bedford, MA

A fictionalized version of the fighter group is being featured in the new ALL-OUT WAR dollar comic that comes out of Murray Boltinoff's office across the hall, so that base is being covered. As for Gravedigger becoming a black Unknown Soldier, we think there's a very distinct difference between the type of missions the two get mixed up with. The Unknown Soldier is espionage and intrigue oriented, while Gravedigger's missions most often take him right to the front lines. And on the question of "super-hero" treatment of Gravedigger, we tend to agree that some recent stories have gone a little far in that direction, but we don't think the scar is part of that phenomenon. Here's a reader who supports our point of view...—PL

• • • • •

Dear Paul,

MEN OF WAR #16 and 17 have taken a step in the right direction as far as Gravedigger is concerned. Giving him the scar on his face makes him more distinctive and sets him apart from other war characters. I would also like to see more of his British supporting characters. Start by giving them larger roles in the stories, and slowly build their personalities.

I would also like to see more complete stories in the future, possibly by rotating Gravedigger with Enemy Ace or that Blackhawk feature that was mentioned long ago.

Rose, the master spy, was a great back up feature. I found him very colorful and would like to see more of him, rather than a Viet Nam or Dateline Frontline feature.

MEN OF WAR has again proven that it has great potential and also room for more improvement.

Rodney Ricciardi
118 Carriage Road
Hanson, MA

There seems to be no great groundswell of opinion favoring a Viet Nam feature, so that's going on our back burner. But your enthusiastic response to Rose should be gratified by the two-parter that begins next month, as the master spy becomes involved in "The Ambassador's Son Affair."—PL.

• • • • •

Dear Paul,

Why is it that your magazine's publishing date is two months ahead of time?

Dean Allen
7211 Fellding, Apt 206
Montreal, Quebec
Canada

A familiar question, but one we like to answer every year or two. Decades ago, pulp magazines and comics used to fight for newsstand space by gradually moving their cover dates ahead of those on rival magazines. It got progressively more ridiculous, until most publishers abandoned the practice...but it left comics permanently out of sinc with the slick magazines.

And just to answer a parallel question before anyone has a chance to ask it, the little stripe of color that now runs across the top of most comics is designed to provide a simple answer to the problems caused by the weird dating of comics. Different color stripes are now used to indicate which week a comic should go on or off sale, and to make life easier for the men who keep your comics racks full.—PL

• • • • •

COMBAT CLIPPINGS. Regular correspondent Robin Snyder of Enterprise, Florida, writes in to suggest an end to Enemy Ace (and Balloon Buster). "Their destiny is obviously to die in battle and to continue to play out the story for 14 years is ludicrous. I liked the original idea and still enjoy the new stories but enough is enough." We think it's no sillier to have 14 years of Enemy Ace stories than it is to have published comics devoted to World War Two for close to *thirty* years. But perhaps some other readers would like to add their feelings on the matter? *** The idea of a Viet Nam series is avidly supported by Gary Norman of Laurel, Mississippi, who recommends we pick up the "In Country" series tested in the back of *UNKNOWN SOLDIER* #211. Unfortunately for us, Russ Heath (who illustrated that memorable tale) has moved to the West Coast and is now working in animation, so we can't recreate the original team, and without it we're not sure the series would stand up as well. *** Michael Robling of Dundale, Ontario, writes in to suggest Gravedigger go on a mission to the Pacific theatre. We haven't moved Hazard east yet, Michael, but we agree it is a good idea. Maybe soon. ***

• • • • •

NEXT MONTH: Hazard's special assignment to guard the President takes even more perilous turns than any of his previous assignments. Be here!—Paul Levitz

EXTRA

The New York Courier

EXTRA

BATTLELINE: FRONTLINE

NOV 26 '941 HAD I KNOWN WHEN I CAME TO RUSSIA THAT I WOULD FIND MYSELF TRUDGING KNEE DEEP THROUGH A FREEZING SNOWSTORM, ACCOMPANIED ONLY BY ANOTHER AMERICAN WAR CORRESPONDENT--

I WOULD HAVE GLADLY STAYED IN THE PARCHED CALM OF THE NORTH AFRICAN DESERT!

GREG SHEPHERD AND I THOUGHT WE WERE LUCKY REPORTERS TO BE GIVEN A CHANCE TO ACCOMPANY A RED ARMY GROUP ON A PATROL ... UNTIL WE GOT SEPARATED FROM THEM IN A BATTLE ...

W-WE MUST BE NEAR THE SOVIETS BY NOW! WAYNE! CAN YOU SEE-- BLAST! I SLIPPED!

GREG! ARE YOU OKAY?

A KINDLY PEASANT WOMAN NAMED ANYA HAD GIVEN US DIRECTIONS TO JOIN UP WITH ANOTHER PATROL NEARBY. BUT SO FAR WE HAD ONLY SEEN SNOW--AND MORE SNOW

IT'S NO USE! WE'LL NEVER FIND THE SOVIET TROOP IN THIS STORM!

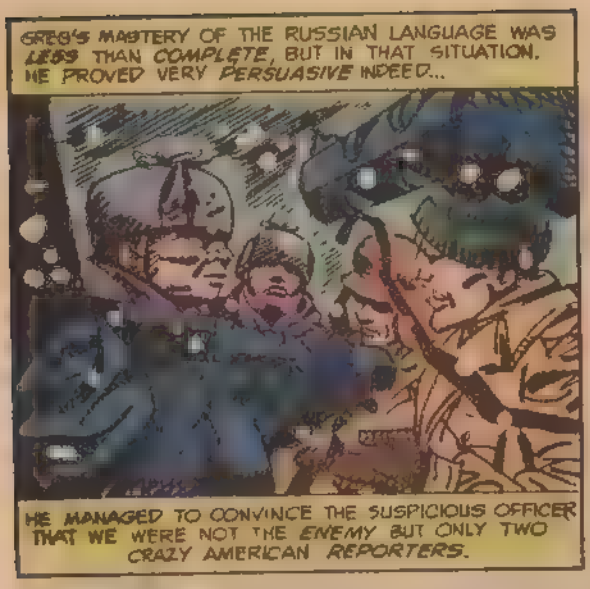
MAYBE NOT, GREG

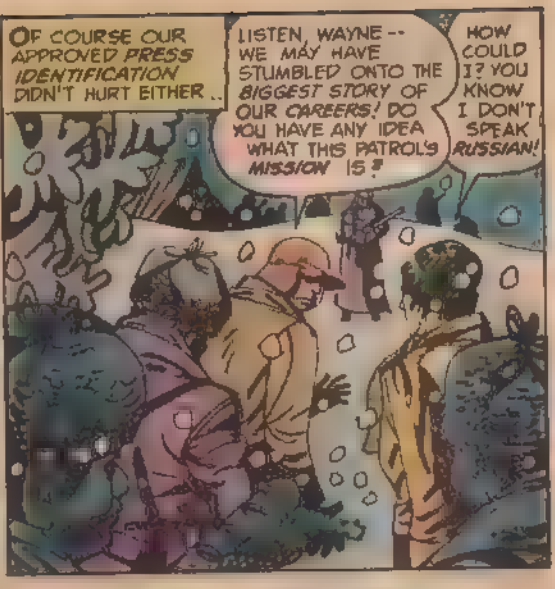
BUT I THINK THEY'VE JUST FOUND US!

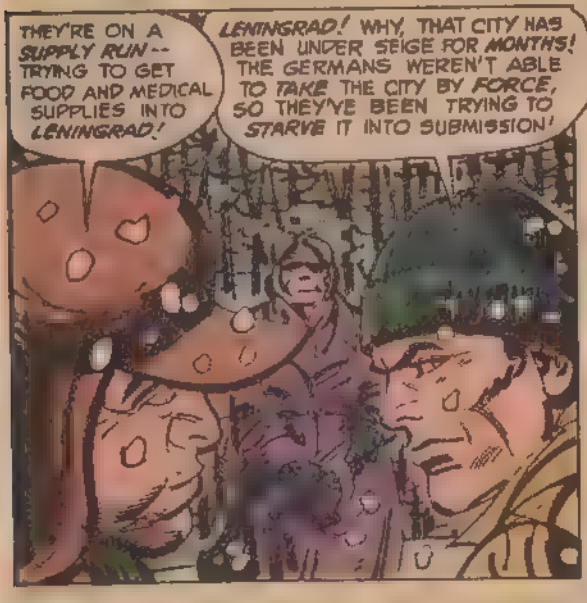
A QUIET DAY IN LENINGRAD

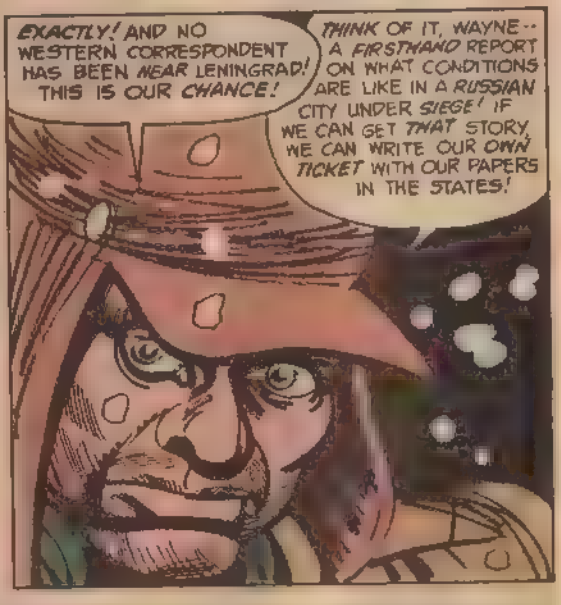
CARY BURKETT • JERRY SHANDENETTI • JERRY GRANT

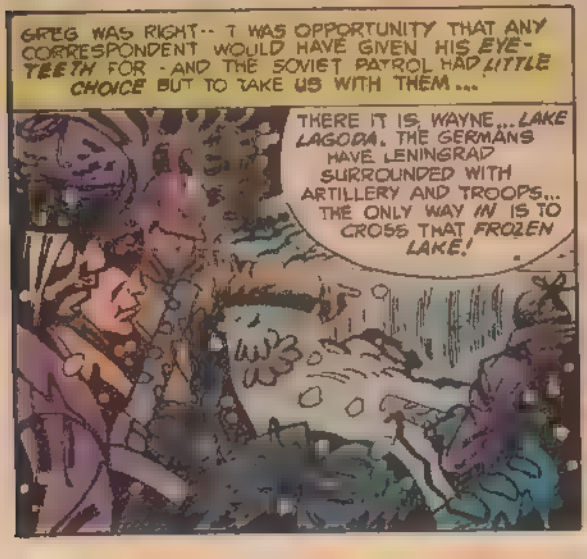
PAUL LEVITZ

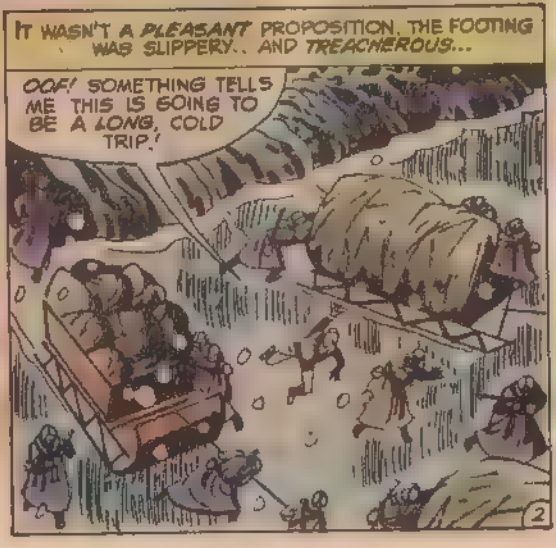

GREG'S MASTERY OF THE RUSSIAN LANGUAGE WAS LESS THAN COMPLETE, BUT IN THAT SITUATION, HE PROVED VERY PERSUASIVE INDEED...
HE MANAGED TO CONVINCE THE SUSPICIOUS OFFICER THAT WE WERE NOT THE ENEMY BUT ONLY TWO CRAZY AMERICAN REPORTERS.

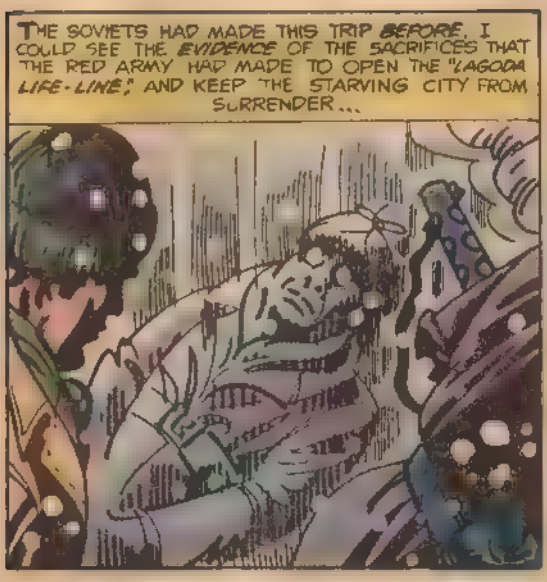

OF COURSE OUR APPROVED PRESS IDENTIFICATION DIDN'T HURT EITHER..
LISTEN, WAYNE -- WE MAY HAVE STUMBLED ONTO THE BIGGEST STORY OF OUR CAREERS! DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT THIS PATROL'S MISSION IS?
HOW COULD I? YOU KNOW I DON'T SPEAK RUSSIAN!

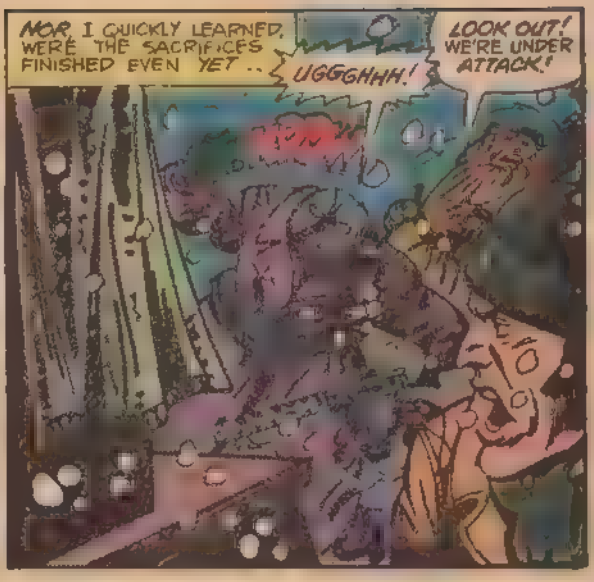

THEY'RE ON A SUPPLY RUN -- TRYING TO GET FOOD AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES INTO LENINGRAD!
LENINGRAD! WHY, THAT CITY HAS BEEN UNDER SEIGE FOR MONTHS! THE GERMANS WEREN'T ABLE TO TAKE THE CITY BY FORCE, SO THEY'VE BEEN TRYING TO STARVE IT INTO SUBMISSION!

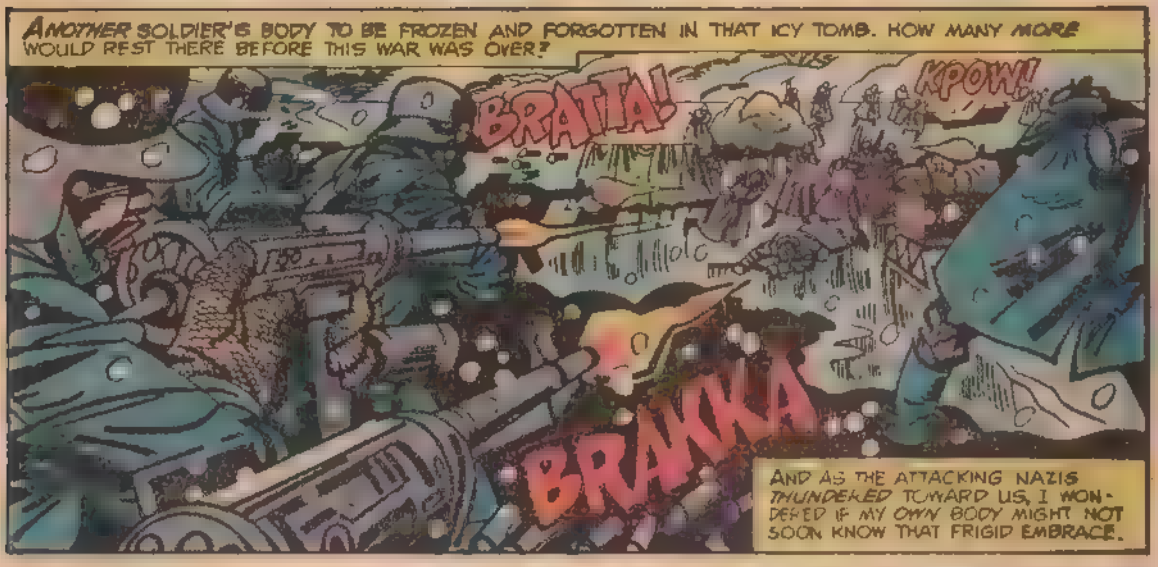

EXACTLY! AND NO WESTERN CORRESPONDENT HAS BEEN NEAR LENINGRAD! THIS IS OUR CHANCE!
THINK OF IT, WAYNE -- A FIRSTHAND REPORT ON WHAT CONDITIONS ARE LIKE IN A RUSSIAN CITY UNDER SIEGE! IF WE CAN GET THAT STORY, WE CAN WRITE OUR OWN TICKET WITH OUR PAPERS IN THE STATES!

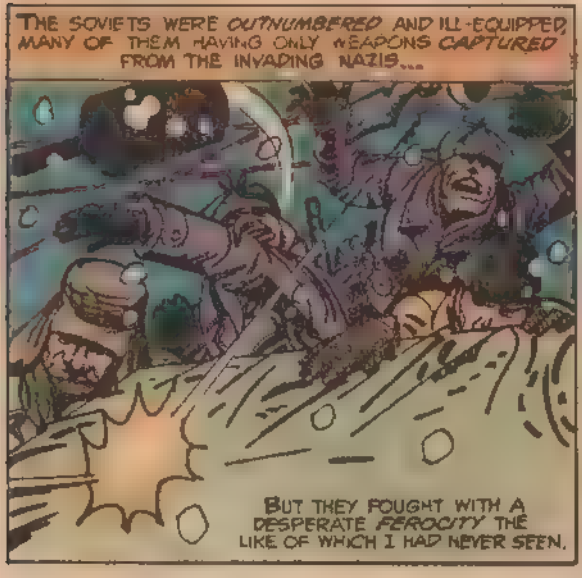

GREG WAS RIGHT -- T WAS OPPORTUNITY THAT ANY CORRESPONDENT WOULD HAVE GIVEN HIS EYE-TEETH FOR - AND THE SOVIET PATROL HAD LITTLE CHOICE BUT TO TAKE US WITH THEM...
THERE IT IS, WAYNE... LAKE LAGODA. THE GERMANS HAVE LENINGRAD SURROUNDED WITH ARTILLERY AND TROOPS... THE ONLY WAY IN IS TO CROSS THAT FROZEN LAKE!

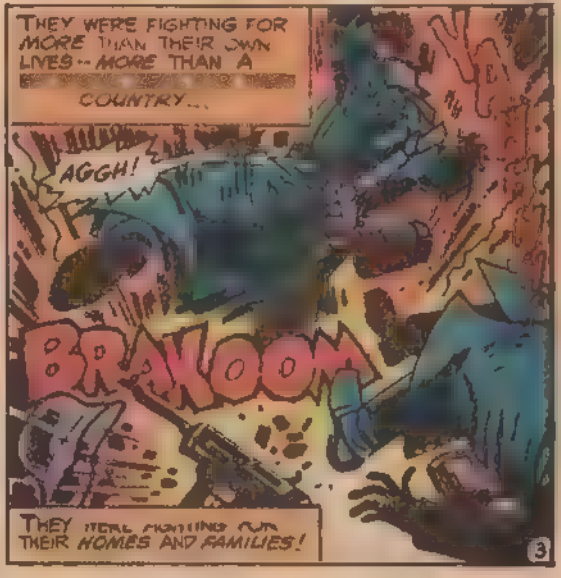

IT WASN'T A PLEASANT PROPOSITION. THE FOOTING WAS SLIPPERY.. AND TREACHEROUS...
OOF! SOMETHING TELLS ME THIS IS GOING TO BE A LONG, COLD TRIP.
2


THE SOVIETS HAD MADE THIS TRIP *BEFORE*. I COULD SEE THE *EVIDENCE* OF THE SACRIFICES THAT THE RED ARMY HAD MADE TO OPEN THE "LAGODA *LIFE-LINE*," AND KEEP THE STARVING CITY FROM SURRENDER...

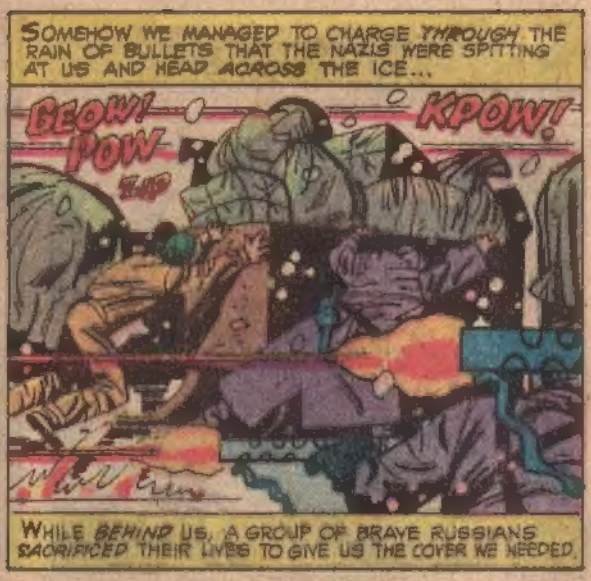

NOW, I QUICKLY LEARNED, WERE THE SACRIFICES FINISHED EVEN *YET* ..
UGGGHHH!
LOOK OUT! WE'RE UNDER *ATTACK!*


ANOTHER SOLDIER'S BODY TO BE FROZEN AND FORGOTTEN IN THAT ICY TOMB. HOW MANY *MORE* WOULD REST THERE BEFORE THIS WAR WAS OVER?
BRATTA!
KPOW!
BRAKKA
AND AS THE ATTACKING NAZIS *THUNDERED* TOWARD US, I WONDERED IF MY *OWN* BODY MIGHT NOT SOON KNOW THAT FRIGID EMBRACE.


THE SOVIETS WERE *OUTNUMBERED* AND ILL-EQUIPPED, MANY OF THEM HAVING ONLY *WEAPONS CAPTURED* FROM THE INVADING NAZIS...
BUT THEY FOUGHT WITH A DESPERATE *FEROCITY* THE LIKE OF WHICH I HAD NEVER SEEN.


THEY WERE FIGHTING FOR *MORE* THAN THEIR OWN LIVES -- *MORE* THAN A COUNTRY...
AGGH!
BRAKOOM
THEY WERE FIGHTING FOR THEIR *HOMES* AND *FAMILIES!*
3

WAYNE! C'MON, MAN! ONE GROUP OF THE SOVIETS ARE GOING TO TRY TO HOLD OFF THE GERMANS WHILE WE MAKE A BREAK FOR IT.
WE'VE GOT TO HELP THE REST OF THE RUSSIANS GET THESE SUPPLIES THROUGH!
SPRAKKAT-AT


SOMEHOW WE MANAGED TO CHARGE THROUGH THE RAIN OF BULLETS THAT THE NAZIS WERE SPITTING AT US AND HEAD ACROSS THE ICE...
BLOW!
POW
KPOW!
WHILE BEHIND US, A GROUP OF BRAVE RUSSIANS SACRIFICED THEIR LIVES TO GIVE US THE COVER WE NEEDED.

THE BESIEGED CITY LAY LIKE A CHARRED, SMOKING RUIN IN THE FROZEN WASTE -- A BLACK, BULLET-RIDDLED SCAR IN THE WHITE SNOW.

OUR FIRST PRIORITY WAS TO UNLOAD THE SUPPLIES, AND HELP DISTRIBUTE THEM TO THE DESPERATE INHABITANTS OF THE CITY...
WAYNE... TH- THESE PEOPLE! THEY'RE STARVED... LITTLE MORE THAN SKELETONS!
WHAT DID YOU EXPECT?

THE RED ARMY TRIES TO KEEP THE CITY SUPPLIED, BUT HOW EFFICIENT CAN THEY BE WITH THE KIND OF OPPOSITION THE NAZIS GIVE THEM?
IT IS TRUE -- WE ARE SENT SOME FOOD, BUT IT IS NOT ENOUGH... IT IS NEVER ENOUGH!

CONTINUED ON 5ED PAGE FOLLOWING

C'MON, WAYNE... THE SOLDIERS ARE GOING TO GIVE US A QUICK TOUR! WE HAVEN'T GOT MUCH TIME-- THEY'RE HEADING BACK IN THE MORNING!
GO AHEAD, GREG... MAYBE I'LL CATCH UP TO YOU LATER!

YOU COME TO SEE LENINGRAD? BUT WHY? WHY WOULD ANYONE WANT TO SEE HELL? FOR THAT IS WHAT THIS PLACE IS.
THEN WHY DO YOUR PEOPLE STAY HERE, OLD MAN? SURELY MANY OF YOU COULD ESCAPE OVER THE FROZEN LAKE?

NO--WE MUST STAY! THIS IS OUR HOME! NO ONE SHALL EVER DRIVE US OUT!
THE NAZIS TRIED TO CONQUER US... BUT WE TURNED EVERY HOME INTO A FORTRESS... EVERY STREET INTO A BATTLEGROUND! WE MAKE THEM FIGHT FOR EVERY INCH OF OUR CITY!

SO THEY GAVE UP TRYING FORCE! BUT NOW THEY WANT TO STARVE YOU OUT!
IT- IT IS HARD... TO SEE OUR POOR CHILDREN DIE OF HUNGER AND CRUEL DISEASE... BUT WE GO ON! BRICKS AND STONE CRUMBLE, BUT WE-- WE ENDURE!
AND WHEN WE HAVE NO FOOD, WE FIND... OTHER THINGS ... TO EAT.

I DIDN'T ASK THE OLD MAN WHAT HE MEANT... I DIDN'T WANT TO HEAR HIS ANSWER. BUT DEEP INSIDE I KNEW WHAT IT WOULD BE...
I KNEW.

WE COULDN'T SLEEP THAT NIGHT. I LAY AWAKE WHILE GREG FEVERISHLY SCRIBBLED OUT HIS STORY...
IT'S INCREDIBLE, WAYNE ... THE HORROR... THE SUFFERING! IT'S ONE OF THE GREATEST STORIES OF THE WAR -- AND WE'RE THE ONLY ONES WHO'VE GOT IT!

THE NEXT MORNING WE QUICKLY PACKED UP AND WERE READY TO LEAVE...
I TELL YOU, WAYNE, THIS STORY WILL MAKE US FAMOUS! WE'LL PROBABLY WIN ALL THE JOURNALISM AWARDS FOR THIS!
I COULD ONLY NOD IN AGREEMENT.
BUT AS WE WERE MOVING THROUGH THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE CITY, WITHOUT WARNING...
AGGGGH!
BRAKOOM
GREG--NO! HE STEPPED ON A HIDDEN MINE!
¡GASP!¡ MY OWN... STUPID FAULT! ¡COUGH!¡ I KNEW THIS AREA... WAS COMBED WITH MINES... DEFENSE AGAINST NAZIS! ¡COUGH!¡
NO USE ...I KNOW I'VE HAD IT!
EASY, GREG...
HERE...TAKE MY STORY! IT'S A GOOD ONE... MAYBE MY BEST! ¡GASP!¡ IT'S YOURS, NOW!
AND WAYNE... PROMISE ME... YOU WON'T LEAVE MY BODY IN LENINGRAD!
I SHUDDERED, KNOWING WHY HE MADE THAT REQUEST. HE TOO HAD LEARNED WHAT DESPERATION HAD DRIVEN THE STARVING PEOPLE TO.
I PROMISE, GREG, AND I'LL TAKE YOUR STORY ... I'LL GET IT TO YOUR EDITOR, IT WILL RUN UNDER YOUR BYLINE.
SMALL COMFORT FOR A DYING MAN... BUT IT WAS WHAT HE WANTED TO HEAR.
I SURRENDERED GREG'S BODY TO THE ICY WATERS OF LAKE LAGODA, KNOWING THAT A FROZEN GRAVE IS BETTER THAN NONE AT ALL...
AND AS I MOVED ON WITH THE SOVIET PATROL, I SAID GOODBYE TO LENINGRAD, WHERE BRICKS AND STONE CRUMBLE... BUT THE PEOPLE... ENDURE.

NEXT ISSUE ON SALE DURING THE SECOND WEEK IN OCTOBER

EXTRA DAILY PLANET EXTRA

VOLUME 79 ISSUE 37 WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 10, 1979 BOB ROZAKIS EDITOR ANTHONY TOLLIN: PRODUCTION

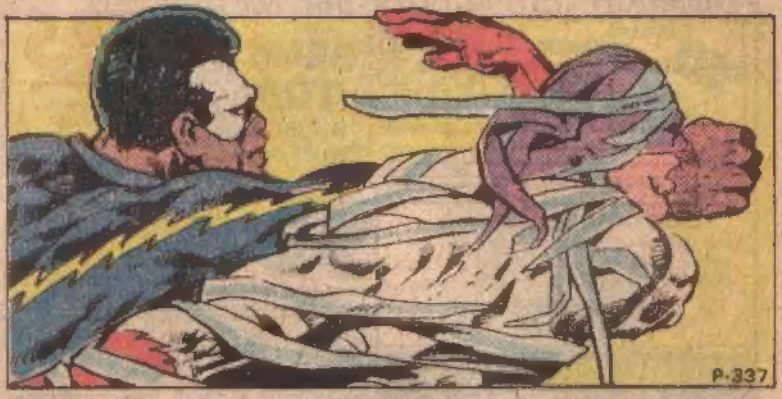
BLACK LIGHTNING BATTLES DR. POLARIS!

SUPERMAN/BATMAN, ATOM and SHAZAM ALSO STAR IN WFC #260

(Metropolis) *Black Lightning* squares off for a full-length battle with that malevolent master of magnetism, *Dr. Polaris*, in *WORLD'S FINEST* #260, when it goes on sale the week of September 24th. "Lure of the Magnetic Menace" scripted by Denny O'Neil and illustrated by Mike Nasser and Vince Colletta, is the full-length adventure originally planned for the twelfth issue of *BL*'s own magazine. Now, *DC* is proud to present this adventure here.

Also in the issue (which is still Dollar Comic-sized, contrary to any previous reports you've heard), *Superman* and *Batman* must battle alien invaders in "The Four Billion Supermen of Earth" by O'Neil, Rich Buckler and Dick Giordano. Then *The Atom* shrinks into a special Halloween tale, "A Tight Squeeze for the Tiny Titan" by Bob Rozakis, Juan Ortiz and Colletta, and *Captain Marvel* must help some unusual neighbors in "There Goes the Neighborhood" by E. Nelson Bridwell, Don Newton and Dave Hunt.

Don't miss this Dollar Comic excitement!

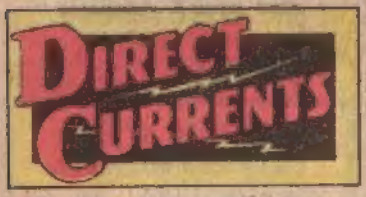


UNKNOWN SOLDIER FACES JUNGLE SHOWDOWN

(South America)—The *Unknown Soldier*'s most deadly foe, Von Stauffen, has escaped to South America. Now it is up to the Faceless Warrior to track the Nazi down and uncover his latest plot.

The trail leads through the jungles along the Amazon to a remote medical base and culminates in a shocking "Jungle Showdown!" Bob Haney, Dick Ayers and Gerry Talaoc provide the battle action when the *UNKNOWN SOLDIER* #234 goes on sale the week of September 24th.

And, also in the issue, a Battle Bonus by Archie Goodwin, Howie Chaykin, Dick Giordano and Al Milgrom: "A Study in Art"



ON SALE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 24th

ACTION COMICS #502—*Superman* and *Supergirl* are on hand for the "Fall and Rise of the Star-Child" by Cary Bates, Curt Swan and Frank Chiaramonte.

HOUSE OF MYSTERY #276—Bill Kelley and Johnny Craig make a "Final Installment"; Stuart Hopen, Catherine Barrett Andrews and Noly Zamora search for "Perfection"; and Greg Potter, Ramona Fradon and Bob Smith provide a "Bugaboo".

WARLORD #28—Mike Grell and Vince Colletta set Travis Morgan against "The Curse of the Cobra Queen", while two other members of the cast visit "Wizard World" in an all-Grell second feature.

WEIRD WESTERN TALES #62—*Scalphunter* faces death after having his photograph taken in "Images" by Gerry Conway, Dick Ayers and Romeo Tanghal.

AND ON SALE RIGHT NOW:

BATMAN #318 / *DC COMICS PRESENTS* #16 / *DETECTIVE COMICS* #487 / *FLASH* #280 / *GHOSTS* #83 / *G.I. COMBAT* #217 / JONAH HEX #31 / *JUSTICE LEAGUE* #173 / *MEN OF WAR* #23 / *SECRETS OF HAUNTED HOUSE* #19 / *SUPERMAN* #342 / *WEIRD WAR TALES* #82 / *WONDER WOMAN* #262

Q: Is there a Kandor on Earth-2?—Steven Hanson. *A*: No.

Q: Are *Green Arrow* and *Black Canary* married?—Kay Lenn. *A*: No.

Q: Why did you stop publishing *FOREVER PEOPLE*?—R. Price. *A*: For the same reason we discontinue any other title—not enough people bought it.

Q: Where does *Wonder Woman* keep her robot plane when it isn't in use?—George Collins. *A*: A good question; one we'll pass along to new *WW* editor Len Wein and hope he can answer it in a future story.

Q: Is your wife still an art teacher?—Robert Gayhart. *A*: Laurie is an English teacher in a Long Island high school, but comics are not part of the required reading!

Q: Did *Power Girl* ever have her own magazine?—Lee Johnson. *A*: Only the three issues of *SHOWCASE*, #'s 97-99.

Q: Any plans for *Plastic Man*?—Alan Duckworth. *A*: He'll be starring in *ADVENTURE COMICS* beginning in October.

Q: When *Flash* vibrates through walls, how come his molecules don't get mixed up with those of the walls?—Brian Bigelow. *A*: Because the Scarlet Speedster has complete control over his atoms as he vibrates them.

Q: Can I start a *DC* fan club?—Michael Comeau. *A*: Certainly...and good luck with it!

Q: I really like the *Daily Planet*. How about a whole book of them?—Frank Stollenwerk. *A*: One page per issue is more than enough work for me!